

NEWS RELEASE



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Find great gifts and help state parks

Discover Special Holiday Gifts in California State Parks

Unique and meaningful holiday gifts abound through California State Parks, whether shopping for a piece of California history or one of the state's natural treasures.

Visitors' centers, museums and the online State Parks Store are offering a variety of gifts to choose from for outdoor enthusiasts, gardeners, railroad hobbyists, museum aficionados, historians, geologists and children. Among the items available are authentic gold nugget jewelry, antique reproductions, wooden toys, historic children's games, Russian Lomonosov porcelain tea sets, owl pellets, heirloom plants and Giant Sequoia seedlings. From annual park passes to videos that take viewers into the parks without leaving their living rooms.

Brochures, post cards and other park gifts can be packaged with an itinerary gives devise for a future family trip to a state park. Reservations can be made at www.ReserveAmerica.com.

For greater meaning, give a gift that tells a story or shares an emotion. Tell the story of a special blend of organic, shade grown and fair trade coffee called the "Western Tanager Neotropical Migrant Blend" that honors its namesake bird which migrates between the redwood forests in California and the forests of Central America. Make them laugh with hand-made Courting Candles and Whimmy Diddles. Or touch a heart with an angel light on Angel Island to glow in the night all month as a thank you or in remembrance, with a certificate and photo to give. With each light added to a tree on a hill, the light grows into the brightest light on the horizon, visible from around.

This holiday season do your shopping online at the **California State Parks Store** at www.store.parks.ca.gov or in one of our visitor centers. Shopping with California State Parks or one of our partners provides you with official, quality parks merchandise and helps support the magnificent natural and cultural resources within our vast 278 California State Parks.

The complete list of shopping ideas is available below.

(more)

Alpine, El Dorado, Nevada and Placer Counties

If you're headed up to the **Sierra** for a snowy taste of winter, you'll find that the Sierra State Parks Foundation offers some unique gifts. **Donner Memorial State Park's** Emigrant Trail Museum in Truckee and **D.L. Bliss State Park's** Visitor Center on Lake Tahoe have an extensive offering of books, puppets, t-shirts, mugs, videos, music CDs, magnets, and other fun items. The Donner museum is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily and the Bliss Visitor Center hours vary. Call Donner Memorial State Park at (530) 582-7892, and D.L. Bliss State Park at (530) 525-9529.

Grover Hot Springs State Park, near Markleeville, sells gift certificates for the hot springs pool complex. A gift of a relaxing, natural hot soak is sure to delight anyone on your holiday list. Call Grover Hot Springs at (530) 694-2249.

Butte County

Bidwell Mansion State Historic Park, located at 525 Esplanade, next to downtown **Chico**, has many items for holiday gift giving. The recently expanded gift shop now sells locally grown and harvested almonds. For those wishing to give the gift of local history, the bookstore offers many books and DVDs about Chico and Northern California's history. The gift shop also offers a wide variety of Victorian style toys, such as wooden toys, tea sets and games. Many toys are \$5 or less, making great stocking stuffers. For easy shopping, all prices include sales tax. All proceeds from the gift shop go to the Bidwell Mansion Association for interpretation and restoration of Bidwell Mansion State Historic Park. To learn more, dial (530) 895-6144.

Calaveras and Tuolumne Counties

Calaveras Big Trees State Park Museum and Visitor Center, four miles northeast of **Arnold** on Highway 4, offers a variety of books, including "The Enduring Giants, the Story of Calaveras Big Trees," many books on Giant Sequoias, local history, natural history, women in the Sierra, many John Muir writings, and children's nature books. Other items include: bird song identification CD's and DVD's, owl pellets, realistic puppets of the animals in the Sierra, live Giant Sequoia seedlings, Dogwood and Giant Sequoia seed kits, posters, beautiful prints and note cards of oil paintings depicting the four seasons at Calaveras Big Trees State Park, bear ornaments, socks, patches, tote bags, T-shirts, fleece and much more. All proceeds go to the Calaveras Big Trees Association for interpretive programs at Calaveras Big Trees State Park. For more information, call (209) 795-3840 or e-mail cbtvc@goldrush.com.

Contra Costa County

Mount Diablo State Park, the crown jewel of open spaces in the **San Francisco Bay Area**, is great place to visit during the holidays. The Summit Visitor Center and gift shop is located in the historic stone building 3,849 feet atop of Mount Diablo's highest peak. After taking in the incredible views with the Golden Gate Bridge to the west and the Sierra Nevada to the east, visit our gift shop. The shop is open daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., offering T-shirts, sweatshirts, hats, and mugs with the Mount Diablo State Park logo. Plus, we have many items for your holiday hiking buddy, including maps, guides, hiking staffs, and patches. Two of the most popular items for sale are the Mount Diablo Wildflowers color booklet which identifies 103 wildflowers in the park and the Mount Diablo Guide Book. For more information call (925) 837-6119 or visit www.mdia.org.

El Dorado County

Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park, located on historic Highway 49 between Placerville and Auburn, is celebrating a "Christmas Preview" at their Gold Rush Mercantile. In addition to period ornaments, there's American River gold nugget jewelry, children's toys, and an

extensive inventory of gold rush history books that cover the Gold Country from Coloma to Yosemite. In our section on Chinese history, we offer calligraphy sets, instruction books and parasols. Musical instruments for kids include junior-sized dulcimers and melody harps. There's also the classic Courting Candles sold with holders made in Coloma's Blacksmith Shop. A candle is placed tall or low into the spiral holder to serve as a timer for visits. When the candle went out, it was time for the suitor to go home. Phone orders accepted with next-day shipping at (530) 344-1895.

Humboldt and Del Norte Counties

The **North Coast** Redwood Interpretive Association operates nature stores and visitor centers in six North Coast state parks including **Prairie Creek Redwoods**, **Jedediah Smith Redwoods**, and **Patrick's Point** state parks. Proceeds help provide interpretive programs, publications and seasonal park interpreters. New in the stores is "Passing the Moon Through 13 Baskets" (\$19.95), a look at the cultural traditions of the Tolowa and Yurok peoples. "The Atlas of the Biodiversity of California" (\$24) is a comprehensive guide to the flora, fauna and geology of California issued by the California Department of Fish and Game. Also in the stores is "Redwood Reflections" (\$12.95), a compact disc of original music for solo piano by Arcata musician Matthew Cook. Lastly, the association released a special blend of organic, shade grown and fair trade coffee called the "Western Tanager Neotropical Migrant Blend" (\$8.50) honoring the bird that migrates annually between the redwood forests in California to the forests of Central America. Enjoy a cup when browsing our stores. Nature Store hours are available by contacting the North Coast Redwood Interpretive Association at (707) 464-6101, ext. 5300, (707) 488-2169, or northcoastredwood@jeffnet.org.

The **Grizzly Creek Redwoods State Park** visitor center (17 miles east of Highway 101 on Highway 36) and other parks in the North Coast Redwoods District offer a fictional, juvenile trilogy on the Bigfoot phenomena (\$13.95-\$20.95). Grizzly Creek Redwoods State Park also offers the legendary grizzly silk screened in gold or brown across the front of a variety of T-shirts and sweatshirts (\$8.95-\$17.95.) The park phone number is (707) 777-3683.

The **Richardson Grove State Park** visitor center, eight miles south of **Garberville** on Highway 101, has a popular stuffed 8 ½-inch backpack Black Bear with play camping tent, set-up instruction booklet, and sleeping bag at a special holiday price of \$25 including tax, shipping and handling. Another set includes an 8 ½-inch stuffed Black Bear with stuffed baby black bear, without the tent, at the same price. To complete the stuffed bear's camping experience, an accessory kit including a 20 ½-inch toy inflatable raft with toy life jackets that fit the bears, are available for \$10 including tax, shipping and handling. To order, e-mail rgia@humboldt.net and mail checks payable to: Richardson Grove Interpretive Association (R.G.I.A.), 1600 U.S. Highway 101 #7, Garberville, CA 95542-8702. The visitor center is seasonally open May 1 to September 30th, so orders must be placed by mail or e-mail.

Marin and San Francisco Counties

The Angel Island Association at **Angel Island State Park** (in San Francisco Bay) is again offering Angel Lights as holiday gifts to celebrate, memorialize or thank a friend or loved one this holiday season. The tree of lights will shine from the top of Angel Island during December and can be seen all around San Francisco Bay. Two books published by the association are also available for gift giving. "Miwoks to Missiles, A History of Angel Island" by historian John Soennichsen, is \$18, including tax and shipping (media rate). "Kai's Journey to Gold Mountain" is a new picture book for upper elementary children based on a true story of a young Chinese immigrant who

came to the Angel Island Immigration Station. Paperback is \$14, hard cover \$21, including tax and shipping. Purchases can be made using Paypal at www.angelisland.org, by fax at (415) 435-2950, or by phone, (415) 435-3972. Credit cards welcome, or send a check to Angel Island Association, P.O. Box 866, Tiburon 94920.

The Mount Tamalpais Interpretive Association operates the East Peak Visitor Center at the highest point of **Mount Tamalpais State Park**, north of San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge. There is a small museum dedicated to the memory of the historic railway and gravity car, and an attached retail area offering a selection of local maps (\$1-\$9) and hiking books (\$9-\$20). There are unique items like the Mt. Tam Elevation Marker pin (\$9) and paperweight (\$37) that are available no where else. The acclaimed Mount Tamalpais Schwab logo is available on posters (\$20), tote bags (\$20), mugs (\$7) and luggage tags (\$4). For children, the Tallest Tree story is told with a book (\$7), stacking blocks (\$20) and a growth-chart (\$10). Local bird identification can be assisted with ID charts (\$7), playing cards (\$8) and plush birds with authentic calls (\$7). Sport caps (\$20); t-shirts; (\$18) and sweatshirts (\$28) are popular with tourists and Bay Area visitors alike. To make shopping easier, all prices include sales tax. Proceeds help provide interpretive programs and publications. The visitor center is staffed by volunteers Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 11a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call 415-258-2410, visit <http://www.mttam.net/> www.mttam.net or write Mt Tamalpais Interpretive Association, P.O. Box 3318, San Rafael, CA 94912.

Olompali State Historic Park, 2.5 miles north of Novato, has unique sweatshirts and T shirts with a picture front and back of the Elizabethan coin found on the site. They are available in white with black print. There are also "Bear Flag Rebellion" T-shirts and "Yes, it happened at Olompali" tan shirts with black copy. T-shirts are \$12 and sweatshirts are \$15, plus shipping. For more information, contact Susan Stompe at (415) 897-1610.

Mariposa County

The **California State Mining and Mineral Museum**, at the Mariposa County Fairgrounds on Highway 49 South, two miles south of **Mariposa**, is offering a 10% off sale in the museum gift shop from December 1 to 31. The shop features a wide selection of jewelry, including items made by local Mariposa artists, as well as pendants made from real gold nuggets. The shop is well-stocked with books that will appeal to rock hounds, prospectors, and history lovers. They also have a variety of rock and mineral treasures such as geodes, polished stones, pyrite, and crystals that make great gifts for kids. The museum is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and is closed Tuesdays, Christmas Day, New Year's Day and closed after 2 p.m. on December 24. Gift shop admission is free. For more information, call (209) 742-7625.

Monterey County

At the **Monterey State Historic Park**, in downtown **Monterey**, there are several places to shop. The Cooper Museum Store features gift and educational items. The store features old-time toys from American Folk Toys and Mountain Craft Shop in West Virginia, including a Whimmy Diddle and a Game of Graces. A Whimmy Diddle is a hand-made toy made of a notched stick with a propeller on top. A person takes another stick and runs it along the notches of the first stick, which makes a tapping sound and spins the propellers. The store also sells nostalgic gift items from Authentic Models, such as Victorian writing sets with glass pens, and models for children and the young at heart; as well as Papel Picado (Mexican cut paper), molinillos (chocolate stirrers), tin tree ornaments, and retablos (Nativity scenes). The store is open every day from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. on December 8 and 9 during "Christmas in the Adobes." For more

information, call (831) 649-7111. The store is located in the Cooper Molera Adobe, 525 Polk Street, in Monterey State Historic Park.

The Historic Garden League operates two shops in Monterey State Historic Park at 210 Olivier, at the foot of Scott Street. The Joseph Boston Store, the first general mercantile store in California, has gifts and decorations from the 1800s. The Picket Fence has garden-related items for the home. They are open Thursday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. All profits help maintain historic gardens in the Monterey area. For more information, call (831) 649-3364.

Point Sur State Historic Park (Point Sur Light Station), 19 miles south of **Carmel** off Highway 1, features many unique items in the park gift shop, including: a Christmas ornament in 3D brass (\$16.75), a fleece blanket with machine-embroidered design (\$45.50), decorative pins (of the lighthouse, barn and blacksmith/carpenter shop \$6.50), "I saw the Light" pen (\$2), various clothing items with the Lighthouse image (\$20-\$37.50), posters (\$10), white thermal-reactive and blue and white mugs (\$7 and \$8), and several books on lighthouse living, flora and fauna of the Big Sur Coast, and children's books on whales, dolphins and otters (\$1.75-\$36.50), and much more. For more information, e-mail cclk@pointsur.org

Napa County

Bale Grist Mill State Historic Park is on Highway 29, four miles north of the town of **St. Helena**. Mill hours are Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The miller is on hand to demonstrate milling grist (grain) on the 150 year old French Buhr stones. Organic grain is milled into the finest flours and meals. The flour and meal is sold in the granary: two pound bags are \$2.50 and five pound bags are \$5. The Napa Valley State Parks Association also has recipe books, cast iron cooking items, t-shirts, baskets and old fashion wooden spoons. Entry to the mill is \$2 for adults, children under 16 are free. Visitors can enjoy the 36 foot overshot water wheel and see the magnificent stones turn the grist into healthy organic flour.

Nevada County

Empire Mine State Historic Park, in **Grass Valley**, has a gift shop with a unique and extensive selection of mineral specimens and gifts from around the world. The shop also has a nice selection of gold in quartz samples from various California mines, gold and mineral-oriented jewelry, and a book selection which covers the park and the local area. The shop also sells a lovely selection of heirloom rose plants propagated in the park, from historic plant stock. The sales phone number is (530) 268-8578.

Orange County

The Store, located in the newly opened **Crystal Cove State Park's** Historic District off Highway 1 **between Corona del Mar and Laguna Beach**, features unique one-of-a-kind items. Outstanding original art by today's top plein air artists captures the restored 1920's and 1930's beach cottages, as well as the natural beauty of the ocean, cliffs, tide pools and sweeping vistas of the 3.5 mile coastal and inland canyon park located in south Orange County. Museum quality photographs of the seaside cottages, rare beach glass and hand-crafted pearl jewelry are offered by local Laguna artists. And now that the famous Martini flag has returned to fly above the Cove at the Beachcomber Café, you can take a piece of history home with a replica of the original flag. Books for sale include *Crystal Cove Beach Cottages: Islands in Time on the California Coast*, Crystal Cove's own rich history; and Joan Irvine Smith's *A California Woman's Story*, a fascinating history of the area written by one of California's leading environmental activists emphasizing the need to protect the state's precious natural resources. Open every day, proceeds from The Store

go toward the restoration of the historic cottages. Call The Store at (949) 376-8762 or www.crystalcovealliance.org to view a limited selection of items.

Riverside County

Mount San Jacinto State Park and wilderness, has the highest Visitor Center in California, located atop the Mountain Station of the **Palm Springs** Aerial Tramway 8,516 feet from the ground. The park store has a wide array of logo items including travel mugs (\$12), campfire mugs (\$8), ladies and adult logo tees (\$16.25), including the 'Been There, Bagged That' Peak Shirt (Elev: 10,834'), Carabineer pens and combo flashlights, whistle key chains (\$2). There is also a wonderful selection of books, including an informative 'coffee table book' about Mt. San Jacinto (\$30). Visitors are encouraged to visit the park's winter wonderland where they are "Keeping the Wild in Wilderness". For more information, contact the visitor center at (760) 323-3107 or the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway at (760) 325-1449.

Sacramento County

The **California State Railroad Museum** Store in Old **Sacramento** features California Poppy china produced exclusively for the California State Railroad Museum Foundation. Whether purchased as a piece of railroad history, or because it beautifully portrays the state flower, this exclusive dinnerware is an important fund raiser for the Foundation. For decades, diners aboard Santa Fe passenger trains got their first taste of California on the railway's famed California Poppy china. Introduced in 1892 for its famed Chicago-Los Angeles "California Limited" passenger trains, this timeless pattern was used until 1971. Long sought-after by collectors, this historic line is now available in museum-quality reproductions. This bright floral pattern is suitable for household use and is sure to appeal to Californians, fans of the Golden State, and followers of the golden age of railroading. The reproduction dinnerware is American made, microwavable and dish-washer safe. The 11 pieces are available separately or in sets from the California State Railroad Museum Store and through the Museum's website: www.californiastaterailroadmuseum.org. The museum phone number is (800) 417-7245.

The gift shop at the **Folsom Powerhouse State Historic Park**, located at #1 Riley Street in the **Folsom** City Historic District, offers a variety of unusual gifts including commemorative coins, key chains, gold panning items, and literature describing the history of the gold rush era in Folsom. The gift shop is sponsored by the Friends of the Folsom Powerhouse Association, a non-profit group dedicated to providing interpretive and educational programs about the powerhouse. Gift shop hours are Wednesday through Sunday from 12 Noon to 4 p.m. For more information contact: Friends of the Folsom Powerhouse, P.O. Box 6248, Folsom, CA 95671 or go on-line: www.folsompowerhouse.com.

The Huntington & Hopkins Hardware store has holiday gifts inspired by California of the 1840s. The store is located in **Old Sacramento State Historic Park** near the California State Railroad Museum. Who needs a Play Station? Children last century played with beautifully crafted wooden toys. Such toys are still available – perfect to stimulate the imagination or stuff a stocking of young or old. Visit the Huntington & Hopkins Hardware store or call (800) 417-7245.

SAN DIEGO COUNTY

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, on Highway 79 approximately 9 miles north of Interstate 8, has a gift shop sponsored by the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Interpretive Association within the park. The shop sits in front of the Paso Picacho campground and is open on weekends from 10

a.m. to 4 p.m. The store features books, T-shirts, caps, posters and replica Native American pottery. For more information, contact the park at (760)765-3020.

(more)

The **Tijuana Estuary** Visitor Center, off Imperial Beach Boulevard and 3rd in **Imperial Beach**, the most southwesterly city in the state, is a haven for birders and Baja Naturalists alike. The newly designed Clapper Rail Nest retail area is part of the Visitor Center's beautiful sustainable design remodel. Holiday shoppers can find stylish Tijuana Estuary t-shirts, Baja Natural and Cultural History and Travel books, children's books and games, gorgeous photo bird cards, totebags, organic and sustainable products, and more! The Visitor Center is open Wednesday through Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information call the Visitor Center at (619) 575-3613.

San Luis Obispo County

Morro Bay State Park, in **Morro Bay**, has the Museum of Natural History. The Central Coast Natural History Association has produced a 2007 California State Park calendar - all photographs were donated by local professional photographers and ALL photos were taken in one of the local central coast state parks. Interpretive information about the photos is included for each month. The 2006 calendar is full color for only \$10, including tax. Calendars can be purchased at the Morro Bay Museum of Natural History, or bought on line at <http://www.ccnha.org/> or by phone at (805) 772-2694, extension 102. Shipping and handling is \$2.75 each. Mail checks to CCNHA Calendar, Museum of Natural History, 20 State Park Road, Morro Bay, CA 93442. Other gifts include recycled glass sun catchers/ornaments with wildlife, plants and more images blown into 3D with a label containing logo and tagline (\$8-\$10); brushkins animal ornaments (\$7) made of Buri palm tree fiber; recycled denim pencils with logo (\$1); recycled denim mugs with name and tagline on both sides (\$6); and recycled newspaper memo holder with logo (\$6). As a promotion, new members of the Central Coast Natural History Association receive a canvas tote bag. The bags are also for sale in the nature stores for \$8.95. For more information call (805) 772-2694.

Santa Cruz County

Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park, five miles north of **Santa Cruz** on Highway 9, offers a huge selection of nature themed, educational and fun gifts including: Books on the redwoods, history, habitats, flora and fauna, games, clothing (14.99 and up), videos (\$19.99), redwood calendars (\$12.99), Redwood DVDs (\$19.99), puppets (from \$6.99), puzzles (\$14.99), nature sound CDs (\$12.99), fine art and much more. There will be a Holiday Gift and Craft Faire for Environmental Education Dec 9 –10, 10 a.m. -5 p.m. For more information about holiday gifts, visit www.mountainparks.org, or call (831) 335-0782.

Shasta County

The Courthouse Museum at **Shasta State Historic Park**, six miles west of **Redding** on Highway 299, sells note cards featuring early California paintings. They can be purchased individually at \$1, or a set of six sells for \$5.00. Contact the park at 530-243-8194 or Lmartin@parks.ca.gov for ordering.

Sonoma County

Armstrong Redwoods State Reserve, at 17000 Armstrong Woods Road in **Guerneville**, Sonoma County, has many educational books for adults and children The store also has redwood calendars (\$8), puzzles (\$12), games and stuffed animals (\$5- \$30), apparel and educational gift items about the redwoods and natural and cultural resources in the area. Stewards of the Coast

and Redwoods supports the Armstrong Redwoods Visitor Center as well as a Visitor Center on Sonoma Coast in the town of Jenner, where the same types of items are available with a coastal theme. The Armstrong Visitor Center is open daily from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and the Visitor Center in Jenner is open seasonally on the weekends. All items can be ordered through Stewards' office. For more information, call (707) 869-9177, stewards@mcn.org.

Fort Ross State Historic Park, 12 miles north of **Jenner** on Highway 1, has the Museum Bookstore specializing in books about the cultural and natural history of Fort Ross (a Russian-American Company settlement from 1812 to 1841), California, Russian America & the maritime history of the Pacific Rim. There are thousands of titles to choose from. Unique gift items include: very special children's books; Lomonosov porcelain items from Russia; beautiful museum reproduction jewelry; traditional Russian arts & crafts (stacking dolls, wooden toys, shawls, lacquer boxes); and silk icons from Russia. The park phone number is (707) 847-3437.

Tehama County

William B. Ide Adobe State Historic Park is two miles northeast of **Red Bluff** on Adobe Road. The Ide Adobe Interpretive Association offers a diverse assortment of old time gifts, toys, books and quality reproductions for sale in the new park visitor center. The CD, *Mining is a Hard Kind of Labor*, featuring gold rush era music performed by the Ide Adobe Players can be enjoyed by people of all ages. *How They Said It – A Glossary of 1850s Language and Expressions* gives a glimpse of the way people expressed themselves in the past. All proceeds from sales items support interpretive programs at Ide Adobe Park. The park phone number is (530) 529-8599.

Tuolumne County

Columbia State Historic Park is three miles north of **Sonora** off Highway 49. The Friends of Columbia State Historic Park has published a new book on Columbia - *Images of America - Columbia* from Arcadia Publishing. The book contains over 200 historical photos from the park's collection, many published here for the first time. The book makes an excellent gift and is available for \$22 (includes tax) at the Park Museum or at www.friendsofcolumbiashp.org. The park phone number is 209-588-9128.

California State Parks Passes

California State Parks offers a choice of two annual day-use passes. The Annual Day Use Parking Pass is \$125 and provides access to most state-operated parks that charge a parking fee. The Golden Poppy Annual Day Use Parking Pass at \$90 provides access to many state-operated parks and all reservoirs that charge a parking fee; this pass excludes the most high-demand parks.

The Annual Boat-Use Pass waves boat launching fees for all motorized vessels and for sailboats over 8'. This pass at \$75 is sold either as a sticker that attaches to an annual day-use pass or a separate hang tag.

All State Vehicular Recreational Areas (SVRA) require a separate annual use pass. The Off Highway Vehicle Day Use Pass is \$50 and gives you unlimited access to California State Park Vehicular Recreation Areas.

All annual day-use passes are good for one year from the date of purchase and make a great holiday gift idea. For additional details and/or to purchase annual passes, please visit our Web site at www.parks.ca.gov, www.store.parks.ca.gov, many park units, as well as sector and district offices. Please contact in advance to confirm availability.